(c) The payment related to one of the milestone payments in the INSAT-2E Launch Services Contract which was due in February 1996 valued about US $ 20.4 million (about Rs.72 crores). Because of the need to restrict the cash flow for Department of Space in 1995-96, the payment was shifted by two months to April 1996 that is, to 1996-97. There is no impact on the launch schedule nor any penalty payment as a result of the postponement in the payment.

State Power Projects

121. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of State Power Ministers was held recently in Delhi;

(b) whether Government have empowered the State Governments to give environmental clearance to all power projects;

(c) if so, the number of projects which have been cleared by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh after the decision taken in the meeting; and

(d) the total expenditure estimated to be incurred thereon by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting of Chief Ministers/Energy Ministers was held on 16.10.1996 in New Delhi.

(b) No, sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

World Bank Threat

122. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World bank has suspended the funds to the State Government of Maharashtra due to its failure to maintain the conditions laid down by the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). The World Bank has suspended further withdrawal from Loan 3498-IN for Second Maharashtra Power project with effect from 22.10.1996 mainly due to the inability of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) to achieve an annual return of 4.5% of the average net value of its fixed assets in operation and to reduce its commercial account receivables to less than 2.5 months of revenue.

(c) The matter could be taken up with the World Bank by Government of India for revocation of suspension only on MSEB complying with certain specific conditions laid down by the Bank for which Government is pursuing with the Government of Maharashtra.

Gas Cylinders

123. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some units are selling gas cylinders of 250gm. to 5 kg;

(b) if so, whether this is being done on the basis of the norms fixed by the Government;

(c) whether cases of accidents have come into notice as a sequence thereof; and

(d) the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are marketing LPG in cylinders having capacity of 14.2 KG., and 47.5. However with the amendment of LPG Control Order in 1993, Marketeers of LPG can market LPG in gas cylinders of any size shape, design and weight other than those specified for marketing of LPG by public sector undertakings.

(b) to (d). Specifications of the gas cylinder valves, pressure regulators, size, shape, design an weight of cylinder to be used by parallel marketeers are given in the LPG Control Order, 1993. The offices of the Chief Controller of Explosives and Bureau of Indian Standards enforce the compliance of such specifications.

[Translation]

Development of Cities

124. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes chalked out for the development of the cities selected under National Capital Region; and

(b) the details of the works likely to be carried out in these cities by the year 2000; and the estimated amount thereof, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). The National Capital Region (NCR) is envisaged to be developed according to the policies and programmes enunciated in the Regional Plan 2001 for NCR which envisages the development of regional infrastructure of